

easily intercepted. I should suppose that all these considerations might in some proper form be brought into view of the government of France. Tho' stated by us, it ought not to give offense; because we do not bring them forward as a menace but as consequences not controllable by us, but inevitable from the course of things. We mention them not as things which we desire by any means, but as things we deprecate; and - vve beseech a friend to look forward and to prevent them for our common interests.

If France considers Louisiana, however, as indispensable for her views, she might perhaps be willing to look about for arrangements which might reconcile it to our interests. If anything could do this it would be the ceding' to us the island of New Orleans and the Floridas. This would certainly in a great degree remove the causes of jarring and irritation between, us, and perhaps for such a length of time as might produce other means of making the measure permanently conciliatory to our interests and friendships. It would at any rate relieve us from the necessity of taking immediate measures for countervailing such an operation by arrangements in another quarter. Still we should consider New Orleans and the Floridas as equivalent for the risk of a quarrel with France produced by her vicinage I have no doubt you have urged these considerations on every proper occasion with the government where you are. They are such as must have effect if you can find the means of producing thorough reflection on them by that government. (To> the United States Minister to France, 1802. F. VIII., 144-146.)

LOUISIANA.—On further consideration as to the amendment to our Constitution respecting Louisiana, I have thought it better instead of enumerating the powers which Congress may exercise, to give them the same powers as to other portions of the Union generally, and to enumerate the special exceptions in some such form as the following: "Louisiana,, as ceded "by France to the United States, is made a part of the United States, its white inhabitants shall be citizens and stand as to their rigfhts and obligations on the same footing with other citizens of the United States in analogous situations. **
* Florida, also,